



# MARIN BONSAI CLUB

2023 March Newsletter

MARINBONSAI.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE JOY OF DOCENTING

YARDADORI DIG

HONORING JAY MCDONALD

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL UPDATE

# WIRING FUNDAMENTALS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY TUNG X. DAO

The Marin Bonsai Club meets every First and Third Tuesday of each month at the Terra Linda Community Center Room 4 from 7-9:30 PM.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, March 13 at 7pm on Zoom.

## COVER ILLUSTRATION

A close up of a Y junction showing the proper layout of wire.

## COVID HEALTH STATEMENT

Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated attendees. They are welcome for those who wish to wear them.

## MARIN BONSAI CLUB BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Tung X. Dao

**SECRETARY**  
Brendan Crotty

**TREASURER**  
Marcia Summers

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Gwynessa Aetherwyn  
Daniel Keller  
Susan Sullivan

**BGLM DOCENT COORDINATOR**  
Art Wasserman

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Daniel Keller

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
Tung X. Dao

**PROGRAM CHAIR**  
Candace Key

**WEBMASTER**  
Sharon Bone

Reach us at  
[info@marinbonsai.org](mailto:info@marinbonsai.org)

Join our Discord  
<https://discord.gg/us25mAsn5A>

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The breaks between the rain storms have been inspiring me. They allow me to be with my trees and work on them. My trees are starting to bud out. This symbolizes the start of a new year and new opportunities to develop my trees.

I hope you are able to enjoy some time with your trees and envision what they will look like in the near future.

## WIRING FUNDAMENTALS

**NOTE: THE WORKSHOP HAS BEEN MOVED TO MARCH 21.**

In March, we will go back to basics with a hands-on wiring workshop led by yours truly. It's a small change of plans from the DIY Wire Caddy demo! Don't worry, though, we'll talk about that wire caddy and why it's important.

Beginners and senior members are welcome to attend. We will be learning all about wiring to prepare for Spring. Our trees will grow rapidly and we can shape our trees during this season.

Members will be given a mock tree and wire to work on. Don't worry; these trees won't break on you. Senior members will be around to help you master this skill.

Experienced members, bring in trees with good wire on them to show us how it's done.

The workshop will be free for members. A \$5-10 dollar donation is welcome to help cover the cost of materials for club members. Non-club members will be charged a \$10 dollar materials fee (hello fellow REBS members!)

Please RSVP at [bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp](https://bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp) so we can ensure that we have enough materials for the program.

## MY DOCENT EXPERIENCE

I had the pleasure of being a docent at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt in February. Representing our art and craft to the public brings me so much joy. Approximately 60 people attended in the 3 hours that I was there. A few of them had wonderful

questions, and one or two even donated to the Gardens.

It was a very inspiring opportunity as I was able to and study the gardens' many trees up close for hours. Being around world class trees will do that.

If you have never been a docent before, it is a life changing experience. Beginners will find inspiration in the Garden's many trees as well as being able to talk with an experienced practitioner about techniques. It's also a way of giving back to the bonsai community and help make bonsai thrive for generations to come.

If you have never been a docent before, please talk to an experienced member, Art (our docent coordinator), or me about how to become a docent and be around these excellent trees.

## YARDADORI DIG

We have a confirmed date for the Yardadori Dig. It will be on Saturday, March 18 from 9am to about 1pm. The dig will be in the East Bay. The address will be included in the newsletter email.

Please bring all necessary equipment such as shovels, saws, and collection materials with you.

Please RSVP at [bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp](https://bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp).

## HONORING JAY MCDONALD

Jay McDonald, past Marin Bonsai Club president and show organizer, was nominated by the board in January to become an honorary member for life for his continued support of the club throughout the years.

He has been a Marin Bonsai Club member for more than 25 years. About 20 years ago, he took over the organization and display of the County Fair Show from Mark Leslie and continues to do so to this day. He studied with well-known instructors in bonsai such as Marco Invernezzi, Ryan Neal, Boon Manakitivipart, and more.

Without his hard work, talent, and dedication, our club would not be where it is in the Marin County community that it is now.

Our presence and show at the Marin County Fair has been is due in part to Jay's leadership. Please join us on the March 21 meeting for Jay's acceptance of this award.

### **CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**

Unfortunately, we must decline the invitation to display at the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival this year. However, there is a silver lining!

The club will be attending the Cherry Blossom Festival in support of the event. On April 15, the club will arrange some carpools and enjoy the celebrations. Please RSVP [bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp](https://bit.ly/marinbonsai-rsvp) so we can arrange carpools for the event.

### **CLUB POSITIONS UPDATES**

We have a few positions available if you are able to help the club out.

#### **TREASURER**

Help manage and the club's treasury and books. Its easier than you think!

#### **CLUB HISTORIAN**

Help digitize historic club documents and document current activities.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter one is an interesting one because I'll be mentoring you on the art of layout editing. I'll need a little assistance in the long term making these very important newsletters for the club. (Don't worry, I'll continue doing it for as long as I my schedule allows.)

If this is something you're interested in learning, let me know and I'll be happy to teach you how to use InDesign or similar to produce these newsletters! 🙌

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

### MARCH

#### REPOTTING WORKSHOP

The first Tuesday, **March 7** workshop will be our last dedicated repotting workshop. As usual the materials fee is \$10 for the night for club materials.

#### YARDADORI DIG

Saturday **March 18** at 9am-1pm will be the Yardadori Dig. It will be in the East Bay. Address to be emailed via the newsletter.

Please bring all required equipment for the dig.

#### WIRING FUNDAMENTALS

On **March 21**, Tung Dao will be leading a Wiring Fundamentals workshop. We will go over the fundamentals of proper wiring with a hands on workshop. Attendees will get to take home a wired up plastic tree to use as a reference for future wiring.

Experienced members should bring in a wired up tree to share. They can help the attendees with the finer points of wiring.

The workshop will be free for members. A \$5-10 dollar donation is suggested to help cover the cost of materials. Non-members will be charged a \$10 materials fee.

### APRIL

#### COMPANION PLANTS

On **April 4**, Eric Schrader will be doing a demonstration on companion plants. These

are small accent plants that accompany a bonsai in a 2 or 3 point display. They're their own hobby and art in their own right.

This will be a wonderful demonstration! Hope you will be able to join us then.

#### CHERRY BLOSSOM CLUB TOUR

On **April 15th**, the club will be attending the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival to experience the festivities and fun. Please RSVP to assist with carpools.

#### GENERAL WORKSHOP

The **third Tuesday** will feature our open workshop. The special focus topic will be announced.

### MAY

#### MEMBER TREE REVIEW

Our very own John Doig, Chris Ross, and Dan Keller will lead a member tree review on **May 2**. Bring in those trees that you want group feedback on and we'll suggest improvements to them.

#### GENERAL WORKSHOP

The **third Tuesday** will feature our open workshop. The special focus topic will be announced. 🌱

## BGLM DOCENTS

Our club has a commitment to support the broader bonsai community. One of the ways we do this is by being a docent at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt.

Docenting there is a joy and it's not difficult. If you are a first timer, please talk with an experienced member about what it's like to help out at the Gardens.

Your visit there will inspire you. The Gardens has dozens of masterfully crafted trees with rich histories.

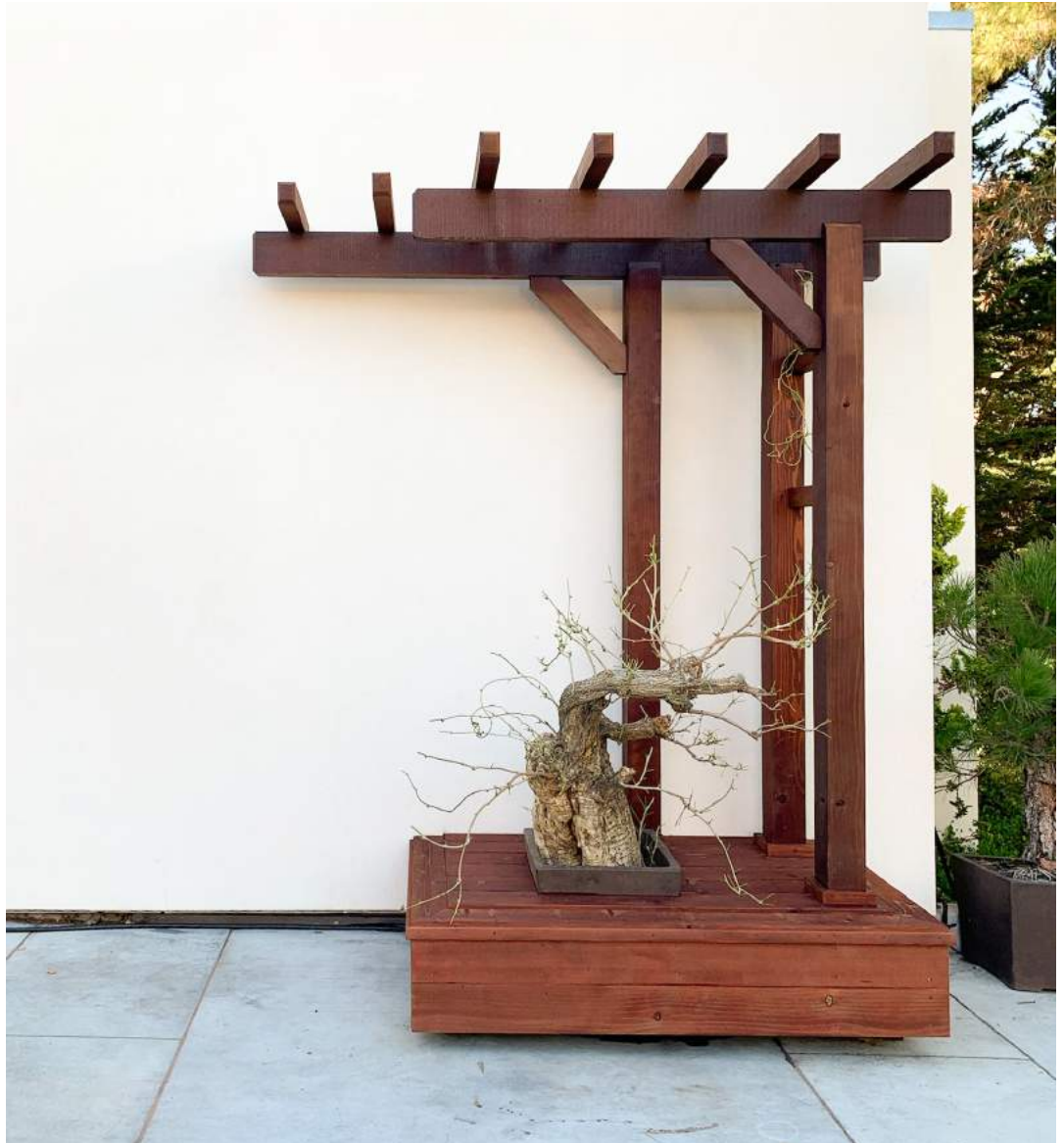
Please contact Art to see when the next available docent spot is.

#### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Got something you'd like to include in the newsletter? The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month. Please send any materials to Tung at [tung@marinbonsai.org](mailto:tung@marinbonsai.org).



# Show and Tell



A 90-year-old wisteria with custom-built stand and trellis. Tree and display by Jay McDonald.

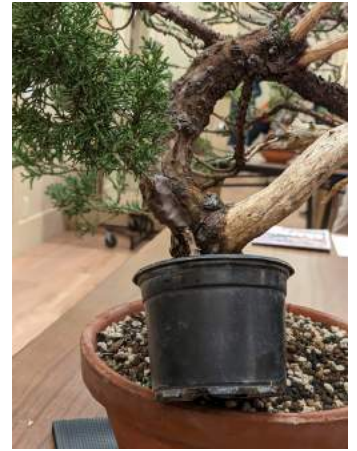
Submit your trees for show and tell! Please send your materials to [tung@marinbonsai.org](mailto:tung@marinbonsai.org) by the 15th of each month to be featured.

# Previously



Photos from our previous meeting with Matthew Walker. He demonstrates approach grafting with a juniper by grafting three smaller junipers to make future branches. Photos by Chris Ross and Tung X. Dao.





# Bonsai Events

## **MODESTO BONSAI CLUB SHOW**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023**  
**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**STANISLAUS AGRICULTURAL  
HARVEST HALL  
3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY  
MODESTO, CA 95358**

Join us for our 40th annual Bonsai and Suiseki show.

We will have sales of trees, pots, tools, and other bonsai related items throughout the day.

A demonstration will be presented by Sam Adina at 1:30 pm.

For more information contact: Peter Camarena: [pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pete.camarena@sbcglobal.net)

## **AMERICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION, SACRAMENTO (ABAS)**

**SATURDAY APRIL 08, 2023**  
**APR 08, 10:00 AM – APR 09, 4:00 PM**

**3330 MCKINLEY BLVD  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816**

The American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's (ABAS) 63rd Annual Spring Bonsai & Suiseki Show and Sale will feature headliner, Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai. Demonstrations will take place both Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 PM.

In addition to a our quality exhibition, there will be a large vendor area and consignment sales area! A daily benefit raffle will include each day's demonstration trees and many more bonsai and bonsai related items. A beginners workshop will be offered Saturday morning. For more information, check out [abasbonsai.org](http://abasbonsai.org) or call Dodie Newman at 916-799-9575 or 916-801-4424

## **SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB SHOW**

**SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023**  
**10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**BALBOA PARK  
CASA DEL PRADO**

**SAN DIEGO, CA**

For more information contact Ignacio De La Torre

Email: [igdlt@att.net](mailto:igdlt@att.net)



## **KUSAMURA BONSAI CLUB EXHIBIT, SALE AND DEMONSTRATION**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 29-30, 2023**

**12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**ADDISON SCHOOL  
1045 WEBSTER  
PALO ALTO, CA**

Demonstrations starting at 1:30 both days, followed by benefit raffle and door prizes. Saturday Demonstration given by Michael Greenstein. Over 60 bonsai on display.

Venue Name: Addison School

Street Address: 650 Addison Street with event entrance around corner at 1045 Webster in Palo Alto, CA

Large sale area, guided show tour, Doctor Bonsai, educational guide and children's corner. For more information contact show co-chairs: Idris Anderson|[idrisan@gmail.com](mailto:idrisan@gmail.com)  
Marsha Mekisich|[springhill.2@outlook.com](mailto:springhill.2@outlook.com)

Phone: (+1) 650-477-4761

## **SANTA CRUZ BONSAI KAI EXHIBIT & SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023  
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**2555 MAR VISTA DR  
APTOS, CA 95003**

Join us for the Show & Sale but stay for the Demonstration at 1pm.

For more information contact Helen Klee 831-462-5829. [www.santacruzbonsaikai.com](http://www.santacruzbonsaikai.com)

## **SEI BOKU BONSAI KAI SHOW**

**WITH WORLD RENOWNED  
SPECIAL GUEST DEMONSTRATOR  
DAVID DE GROOT**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 3 AND 4, 2023  
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**SAN MATEO GARDEN CENTER  
605 PARKSIDE WAY  
SAN MATEO, CA 94403**

In addition to show, world renowned special guest demonstrator David De Groot will provide demo Saturday 1-3pm, with Demo tree raffle following. Sunday 1-3pm, David will lead an open to public viewing workshop, with workshop tree raffled after. Both days 3pm benefit raffle and door prizes.

Tree Clinic—Vendor Sales—Plant Sales—Free Admission

For additional information: Marsha Mekisich [springhill.2@outlook.com](mailto:springhill.2@outlook.com)

Phone: (+1) 650-477-4761

## **EAST BAY BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2023**  
**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER**  
**666 BELLEVUE AVE**  
**OAKLAND, CA 94610**

The East Bay Bonsai Society will be having an in-person bonsai auction on Wednesday, June 14th at 666 Bellevue Ave., Lakeside Park Garden Center (Lake Merritt) in Oakland, California! The auction will start at 7:30pm with a preview at 7:00pm. It will include established and starter bonsai trees, pots, tools, etc. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted. Free admission. Parking available. Sales tax will be added to purchases. Masks are required.

The East Bay Bonsai Society's in-person bonsai auction on will start at 7:30pm with a preview at 7:00pm. More? Email: [mhyllton@rocketmail.com](mailto:mhyllton@rocketmail.com)

## **REBS 37TH ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023**  
**10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (4PM SUNDAY)**

**5401 SNYDER LN**  
**ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928**

The return of the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society hosting its 37th Annual Bonsai Show. New modern facilities with AC. Featuring the international renowned bonsai artist Ryan Neil as guest demonstrator.

## **YAMATO BONSAI KAI SHOW**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023**  
**11:00 AM – OCT 15, 5:00 PM**

**32975 ALVARADO-NILES RD**  
**UNION CITY, CA 94587**

Exhibition of Bonsai trees, plant sales, and vendors. Free admission and free parking. Demonstrations on both days at 1:30 pm, featuring Jonas Dupuich on Saturday and Yamato Bonsai Kai Club demonstrator Howard Correa on Sunday. For updates find us on Facebook at "Yamato Bonsai Kai"

Demonstration trees will be raffled off as grand prize each day. For more info and updates find us on Facebook by searching "Yamato Bonsai Kai".

Phone: (+1) 510-378-9150

Email: [irishfishboy@yahoo.com](mailto:irishfishboy@yahoo.com)

## **GSBF RENDEZVOUS**

*FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023*

*HOTEL MISSION DE ORO  
13070 CA-33  
SANTA NELLA, CA 95322*

Bonsai Sales ▪ Auction ▪ Workshops ▪  
Lectures ▪ Community.

## **CAPITAL CITY BONSAI SHOW**

*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023*

*3330 MCKINLEY BLVD  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816*

This group show features tree and suise-  
ki displays from participating area clubs.

Trees ▪ Stones ▪ Kusamono ▪ Demos  
▪ Vendor and member sales area. Watch  
for more details as the date nears. For  
more information contact Paul Holzen,  
Pres. Capital City Bonsai Assoc. at:  
[pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbholtzen@sbcglobal.net) 📧



# Resources

## BONSAI RESOURCES

Here are some resources for bonsai materials, both online and in-person.

This is a work in progress, please send suggestions in and we'll make this an even better list.

### LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

Jonas Dupuich — Bonsai Tonight  
Eric Schrader — Bonsaify  
Matthew Walker — Bonchi Bonsai  
Peter Tea  
Boon Manakitivipart

### MATERIALS

Bonsai Tonight  
Bonsaify  
Bonchi Bonsai  
First Branch Bonsai  
Lone Pine Gardens  
Mendocino Coast bonsai  
Evergreen Garden Works  
Driftwood Bonsai  
Carman's Nursery (bonsai starters and nursery material)

### EDUCATION

Mirai Live  
Bonsai U  
Bonsai Empire

### MUSEUMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Golden State Bonsai Federation  
Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt  
The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum  
at The United States National Arboretum

### BLOGS

Peter Tea Bonsai  
Bonsai Tonight  
The Art of Bonsai Project  
Bonsai Empire

# Minutes

## MBC February 2023 Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Attending: Tung (President), Susan (Board Member), Brendan (Secretary), and Gwynessa (Board Member)

Matthew Walker recap

Great showing of members (~20 people attended)!

Brought in \$136 in raffles

Donation to Shohin

Donate \$50? Marcia, Susan, and Tung have said yes Brendan, Gwynessa. That approves this. Tung will tell Marcia to send a check to the GSBF

From Candace: The shohin donation is actually a donation to all 3 bonsai gardens which are part of GSBF. Since this is after the Shohin Convention we can make a single donation to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

Treasury Update

Tung and Marcia are updating the bank account names

Could use a 2nd signer after Marcia leaves. Dan?

Tung can now deposit checks remotely

Tung will learn how to do accounting from Art?

Do we want to hire bookkeeper, Michele Andrade?

Hire bookkeeper: Tung, Susan, Gwynessa, and Brendan agree for this year.

PO Box

Would like to propose to move the PO box closer to TLCC.

Would need to update marketing materials, and contacts

USPS forwards po boxes.

Makes sense. Tehre's a USPS Post office across the street.

Start the ball rolling on this: Tung, Susan, Brendan, Gwynessa  
Cherry Blossom?

Have 4 people interested, 2 on first day and 2 on 2nd day.

Do we want to go ahead or decline the invitation?

Let's decline: Tung, Susan, Brendan, Gwynessa

Make it a bigger deal for next year. Encourage people to attend the event this year with a club tour of the festival to support the event this year. Regaining momentum this year.

GSBF Insurance

Sent to Marcia

Tung will follow up with Marcia about completing this form.

Filings

IRS Form 990-N (April 15)

CA AG Form RRF-1 w/ fee (April 15)

San Rafael City Business Licence (June)

Credit card payments for membership? (Susan)

Here are the benefits of taking payments by Square:

More people will pay and pay early.

I'm suggesting an increase in membership fees for singles to \$50 and family to \$70. Keep Student fee the same. After square's fees (2.9% +30 cents per transaction) that gives us:

Single \$50 is \$3.25 more per year.

Family \$70 is \$7.67 more per year.

Each member has an increase of \$5 per person per year.

Allow people who pay by check to pay the old or new fee.

I suggest we include a donation option so people can donate any amount extra.

People won't have to fill out the form every year as a piece of paper but can make changes to their information online. This will eliminate updating the list manually, Square keeps track of the

information, and it can be downloaded from the website.

I realize that this will take time to set up but, I think it will save time in the long run.

Tung, Susan, Gwynessa, and Brendan agree to start looking into this. The fee increase is TBD

Tung will discuss with Sharon about implementing this  
East Bay yardadori

Have a few people from both clubs interested.

Susan, Gabe (Midori), Julius, Michael

Will organize a Saturday in March for this.

July Show update

From Jay: the new organizers are not sure if they will have a large dedicated indoor space this year for the bonsai.

Do we want a contingency plan?

Should we confirm with the organizers that what Jay said is still the case?

Candace suggests sending someone to talk with them this week.

The board would like to ask Candace if she could discuss with the organizers and report back, because she has more experience with the Fair. Gwynessa can also go ask.

Programs (Candace)

March: Tung's Hands on Wiring Workshop

Reimburse tung for the tree simulates: \$33. Susan, Gwynessa, Brendan, Tung

Jay will be attending to receive his honorary membership award.

Will also be bringing a show and tell tree.

Do we want to invite REBS to this event? Susan, Gwynessa, Brendan, Tung

Materials Fees: Non-club member: \$10, Member: \$10 suggested.

Check if they are members at the event with the official list. Encourage people to pay if they're not members yet.

April: Eric Schrader Companion Plants

May: Member Tree Review with John, Chris, and Dan

June: Jay McDonald

July: Show and Beginner workshop

August: Sale/Auction

Sept: Jonas Dupuich

Oct:

Nov:

Dec: Holiday party and Tree decoration contest

Treasury (Tung and Marcia)

Expenses to date:

Demonstrator: \$450

Silent Auction dues to member: \$44

Income to date:

Membership Dues: \$965

(Not counted yet: Raffle Proceeds: \$136)

Current balance

\$8,371.62

Membership (Dan)

Newsletter

Will be updating the resources page. Send suggestions my way!

Merge the two lists and maybe link the newsletter to the website.

Anything else?

# Membership Application and Renewals

**NAME****DATE****I AM A**

- ☐ NEW MEMBER  
☐ RETURNING MEMBER

**PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

- ☐ SINGLE (\$45)      ☐ HOUSEHOLD (\$65)      ☐ STUDENT (\$25)

**ADDRESS****CITY****STATE****ZIP****EMAIL**

Please keep your email up to date to receive important updates from the club such as newsletters, shows, and events. We will not share your email outside of our club.

**PHONE**

- ☐ CELL      ☐ HOME

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE CLUB?****HOW I CAN HELP THE CLUB****MONTHLY MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS**

- ☐ RAFFLE EVENTS  
☐ WORKSHOPS  
☐ PROGRAMS  
☐ PUBLICITY  
☐ BOARD MEMBER  
☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES**

- ☐ DOCENT AND OTHER SUPPORT AT BGLM  
☐ SETUP/DOCENT MARIN COUNTY FAIR SHOW  
☐ AUCTION COMMITTEE  
☐ HOLIDAY PARTY

Each member of the club is encouraged to volunteer at monthly and yearly club activities. Please check at least two areas where you can contribute to the club. Thank you!

Make checks payable to **MARIN BONSAI CLUB**

Please send your check and application to

**MARIN BONSAI CLUB  
PO BOX 1461  
ROSS, CA 94957-1461**